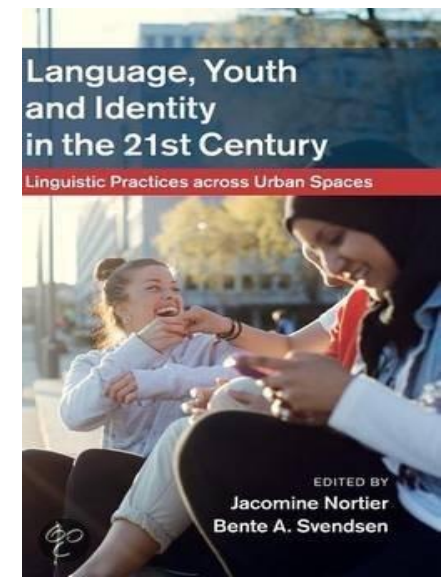


Towards a comprehensive insight on Contemporary Urban Vernaculars: Cité Dutch in Flanders

Stefania Marzo, Dorien Van De Mieroop, Eline Zenner

Contemporary Urban Vernaculars/ Ethnolects

- new variants of the local majority languages
- associated with informal registers in peer interaction & adolescent speakers
- inner-city neighborhoods
- a significant number of speakers with multilingual and migrant background



Overview

1. Background

- 1) Theoretical and methodological issues
- 2) Prototype theory applied to contemporary urban vernaculars

2. Testing the hypothesis/applicability

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3. Conclusions

Theoretical issues

are ethnolects unmarked **distinct 'varieties'** (urban dialects) or rather deliberate practices, characterized by **free idiosyncratic variation**?

- **Variationists**: feature pools (Mufwene, Cheshire et al. 2011), feature ponds (Wiese 2016), urban dialects (Wiese 2015)
=> Van Meel et al. 2016:
strong interplay between macro-social, pragmatic, interactional and linguistic factors
- **Linguistic ethnographers**: free and idiosyncratic *in situ* variation (*bricolage*, Eckert)

Proposed way out:

combine a quantitative variationist approach (inter-speaker variation) with a qualitative interactional approach (intra-speaker variation)

Methodological issues

The burden of complex spontaneous interactional data

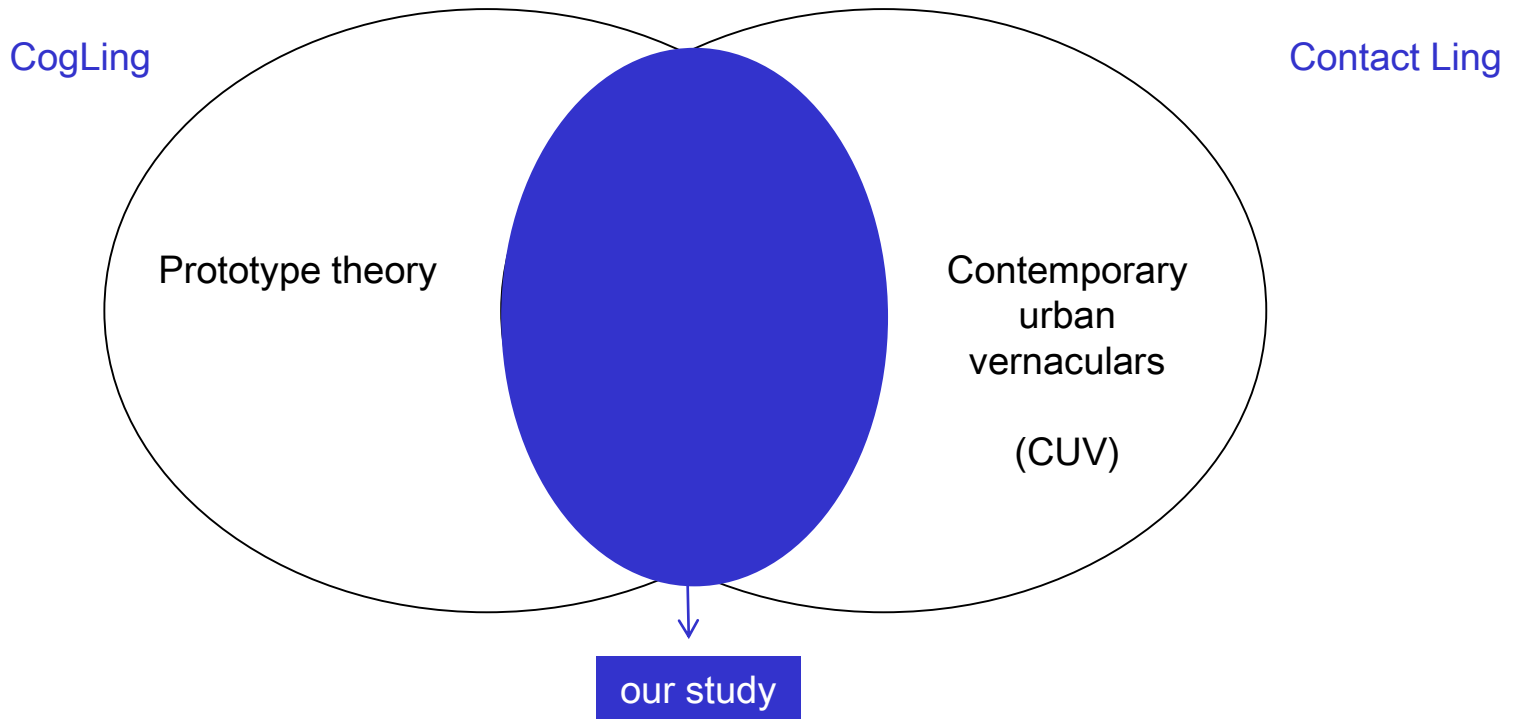
→ issues preventing a traditional variationist analysis:

- Strong **interplay** between different linguistic, pragmatic, macro-social and interactional factors: **multicollinearity**
- Data **sparseness** (< ecologically valid data)
- **Quasi-complete separation**

Proposed way out:

explore the possibilities of Cognitive Contact Linguistics (e.g. Zenner, Backus, Winter-Froemel Forthc.)

Cognitive Contact Linguistics



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Prototype theory

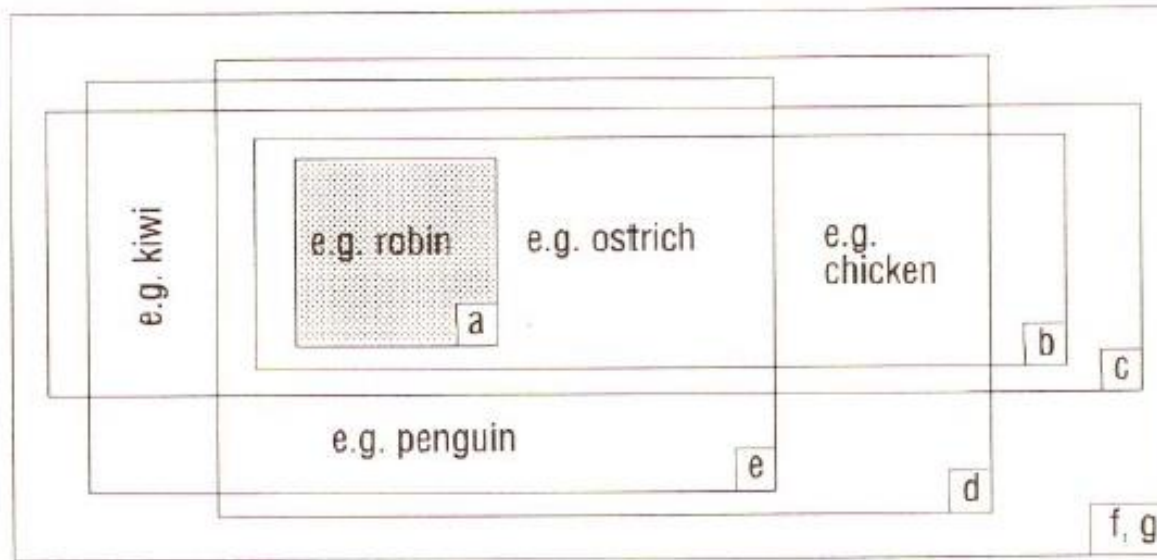
Wittgenstein: philosophy of language

Rosch: psycholinguistics

Geeraerts et al. 1994: lexico-semantics

The main idea:

- Family resemblance structure
- Category membership
- Prototypical core vs. periphery
- Salience & entrenchment
- (Semantic) feature comparison (e.g. based on frequency)



- a. "Being able to fly"
- b. "Having feathers"
- c. "Being S-shaped"
- d. "Having wings"

- e. "Not domesticated"
- f. "Being born from eggs"
- g. "Having a beak or bill"

Geeraerts et al. 1994

Prototype theory

Wittgenstein: philosophy of language

Rosch: psycholinguistics

Geeraerts et al. 1994: lexico-semantics

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Application to CUV's

From semantic feature comparison to social feature comparison

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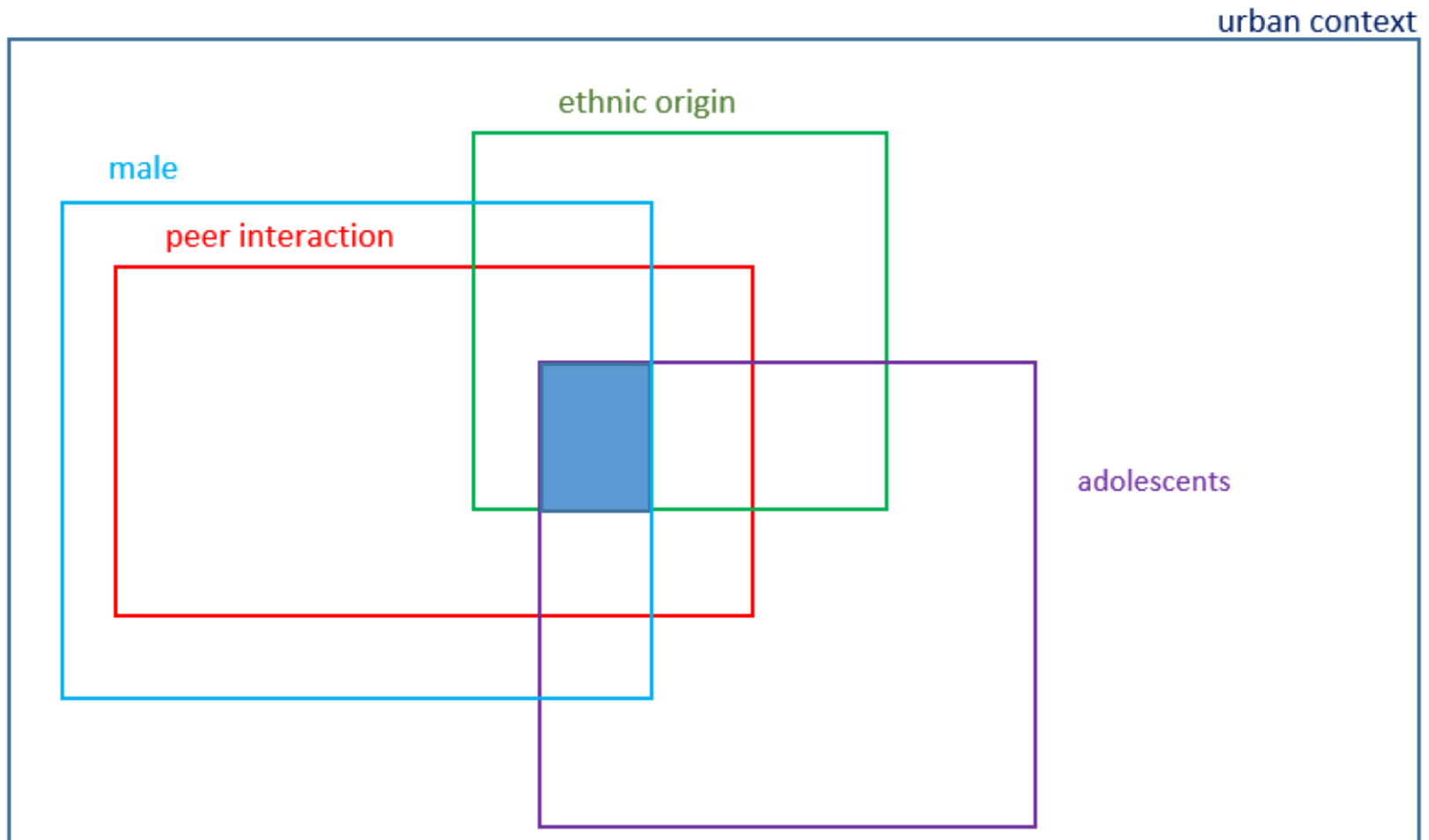
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Coming up with a prototype structure

Incorporating the parameters frequently mentioned in CUV studies:



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Citétaal, Citélanguage, Cité Dutch, ...

former ghettoized mining
areas of the city of Genk and
surroundings



Dutch + Italian, Moroccan,
Turkish, Greek, Spanish, ...

Previous studies on Cité Dutch

Two features are perceived as ‘markers’ of Cité Dutch:

Palatalization of [s] + C: *stijl* 'style', pronounced [ʃtɛil] instead of [stɛil]

Generalization of the masculine article *de* instead of neutral *het*
(*de boek* 'the book' for *het boek*)

(Marzo & Ceuleers 2011)

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Data

The data:

- 16 hours of recordings
- 8 adolescents and their network (n=40)
- spontaneous interactions
 - at home (peer and parents)
 - in leisure time (peer interactions)

Informants:

- native Flemish or ethnic background (Italians, Moroccans, Turkish)
- age 16-23
- Genk

Palatalization

palatalization:
Cité Dutch vs. Standard Dutch



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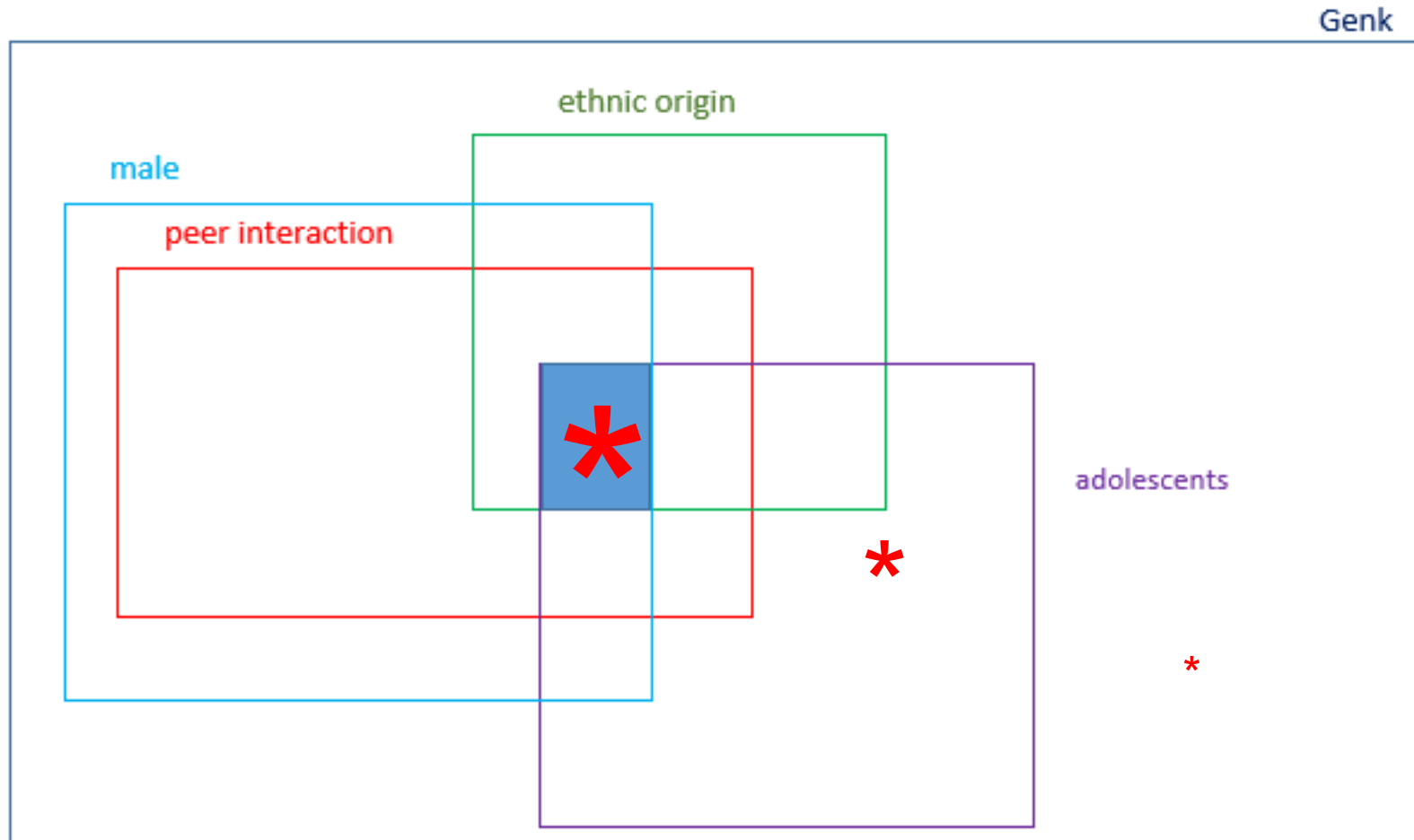
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Prototypical core for palatalization

According to the literature:



1. Francesco with friends

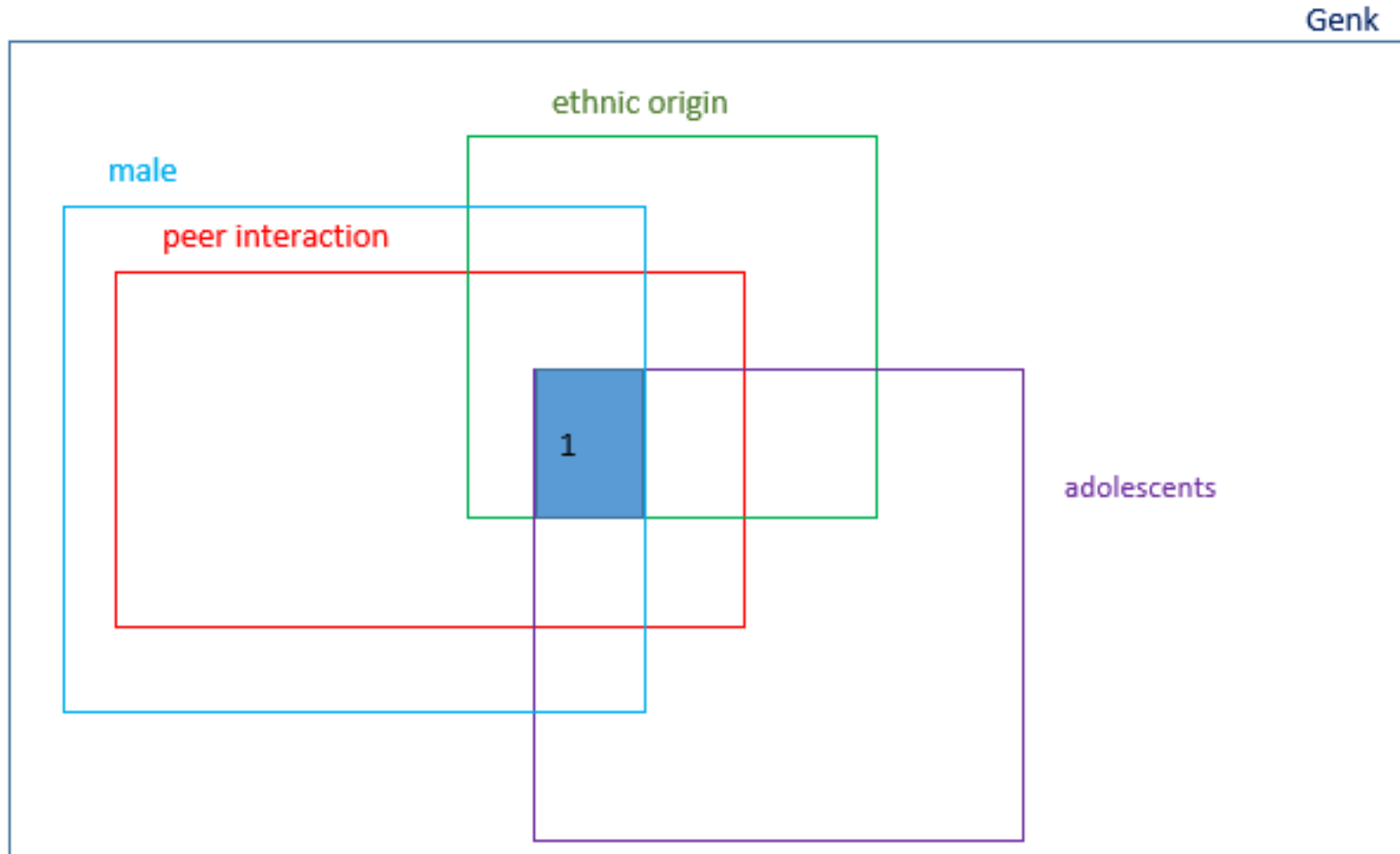
[+ adolescent]

[+ male]

[+ ethnic origin]

[+ peer interaction]

Test 1: Case 1



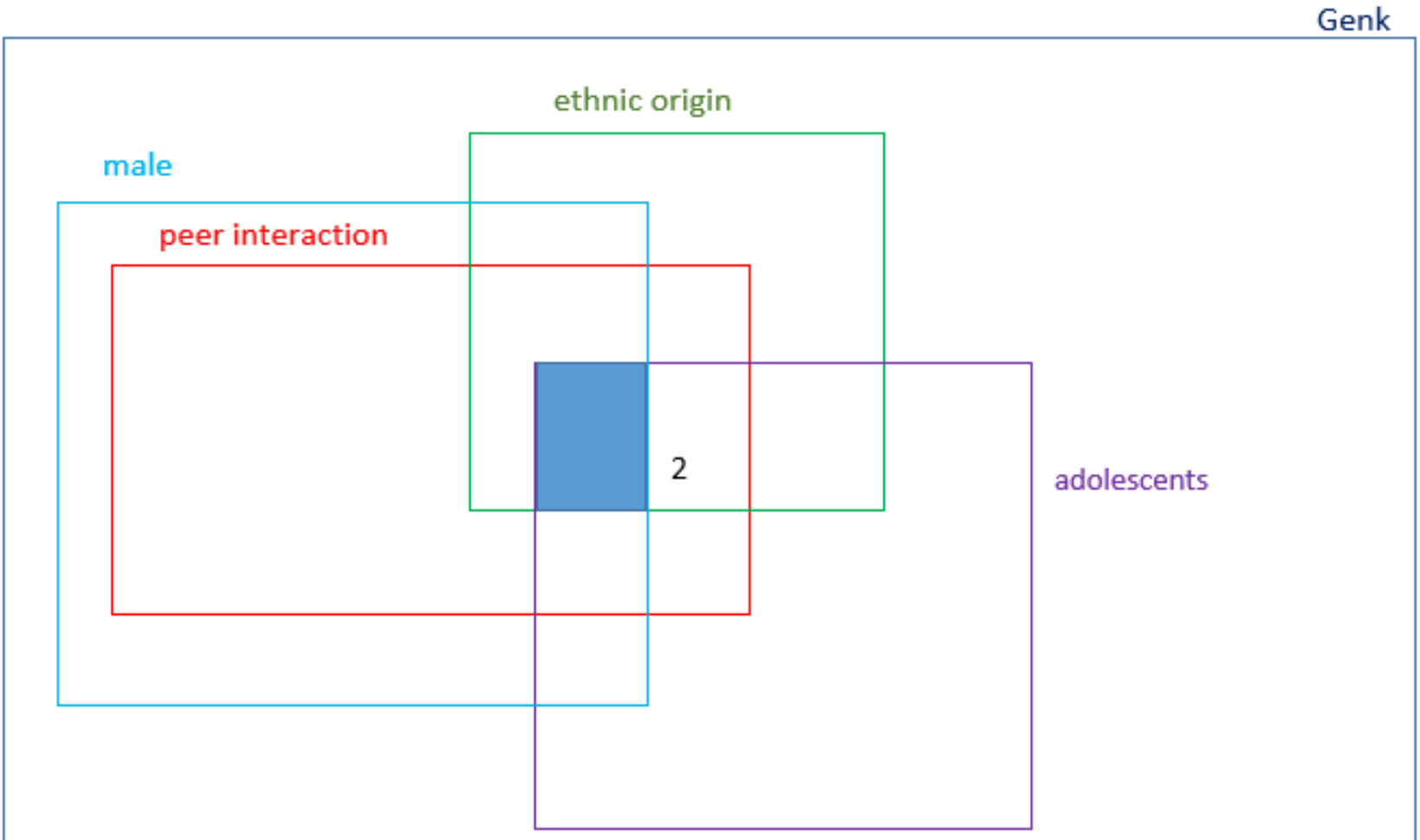
2. Chiara with friends

[+ adolescent]

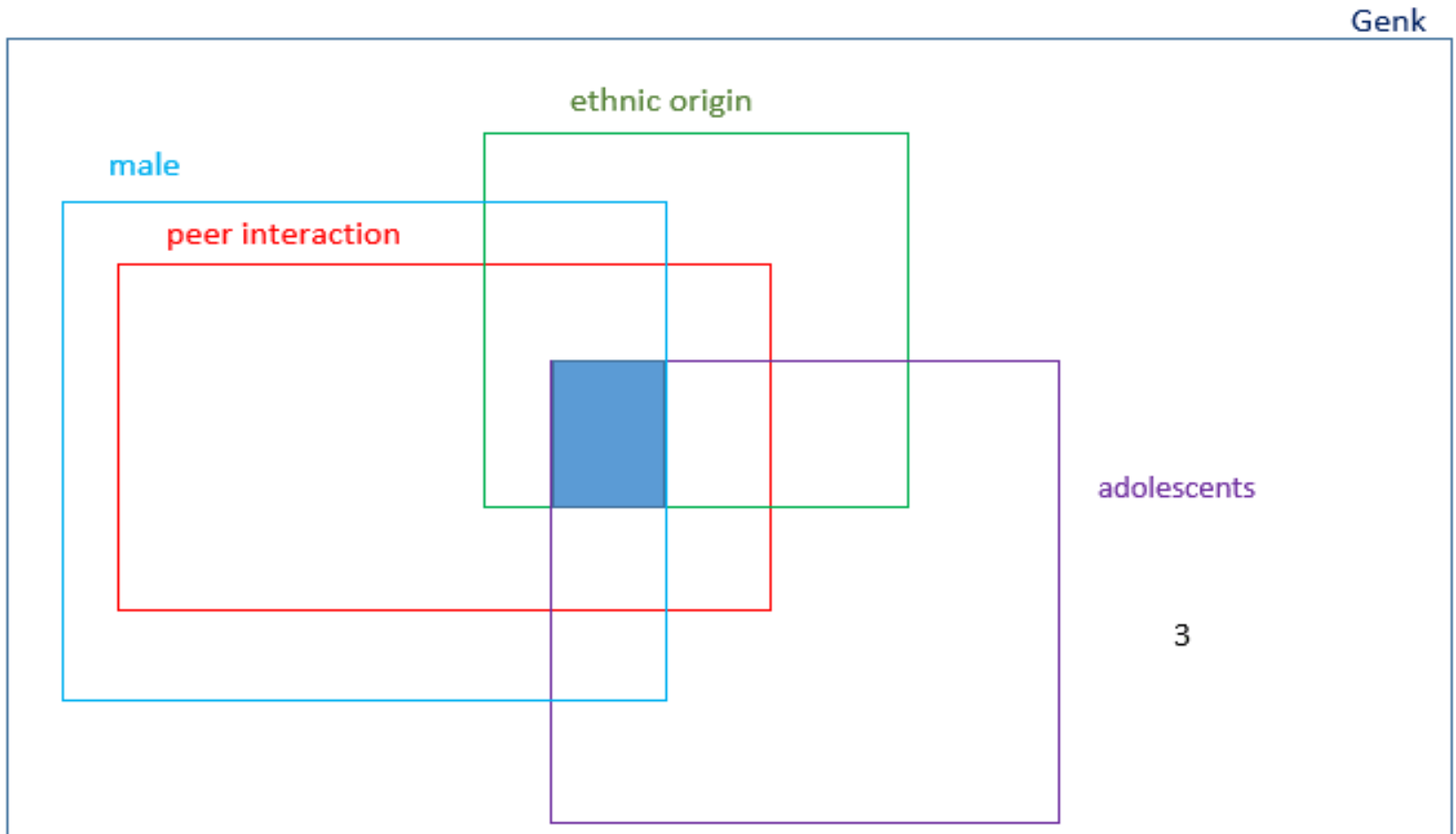
[+ ethnic origin]

[+ peer interaction]

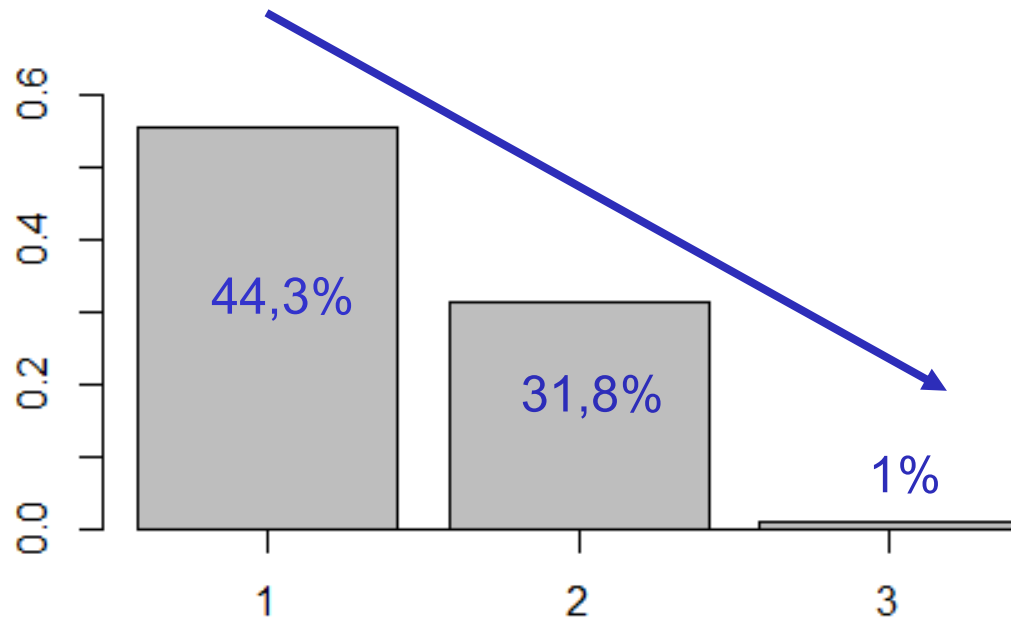
Test 1: Case 2



Test 1: Case 3



Test 1: Results



1. Hamza with friends

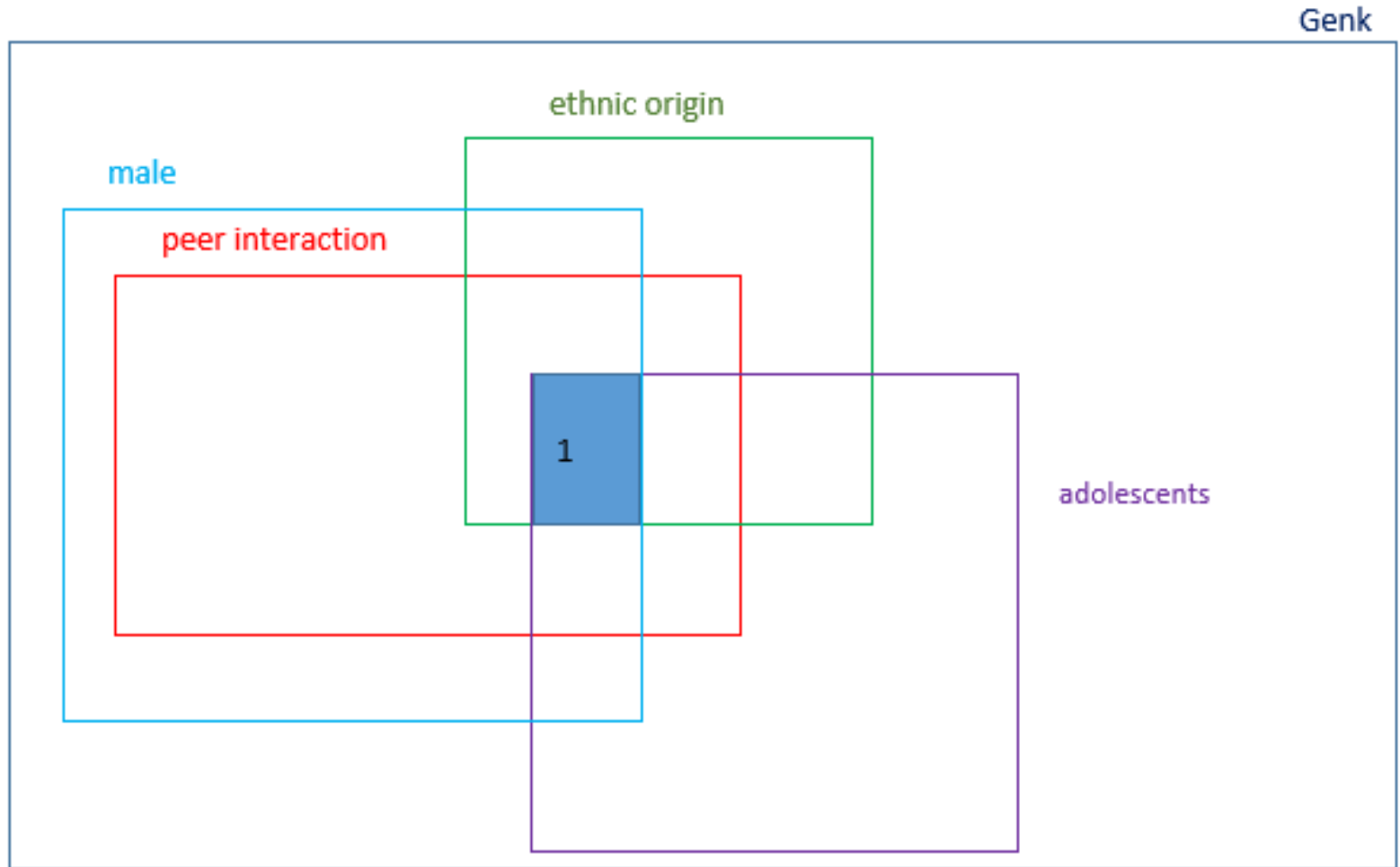
[+ adolescent]

[+ male]

[+ ethnic origin]

[+ peer interaction]

Test 2: Case 1



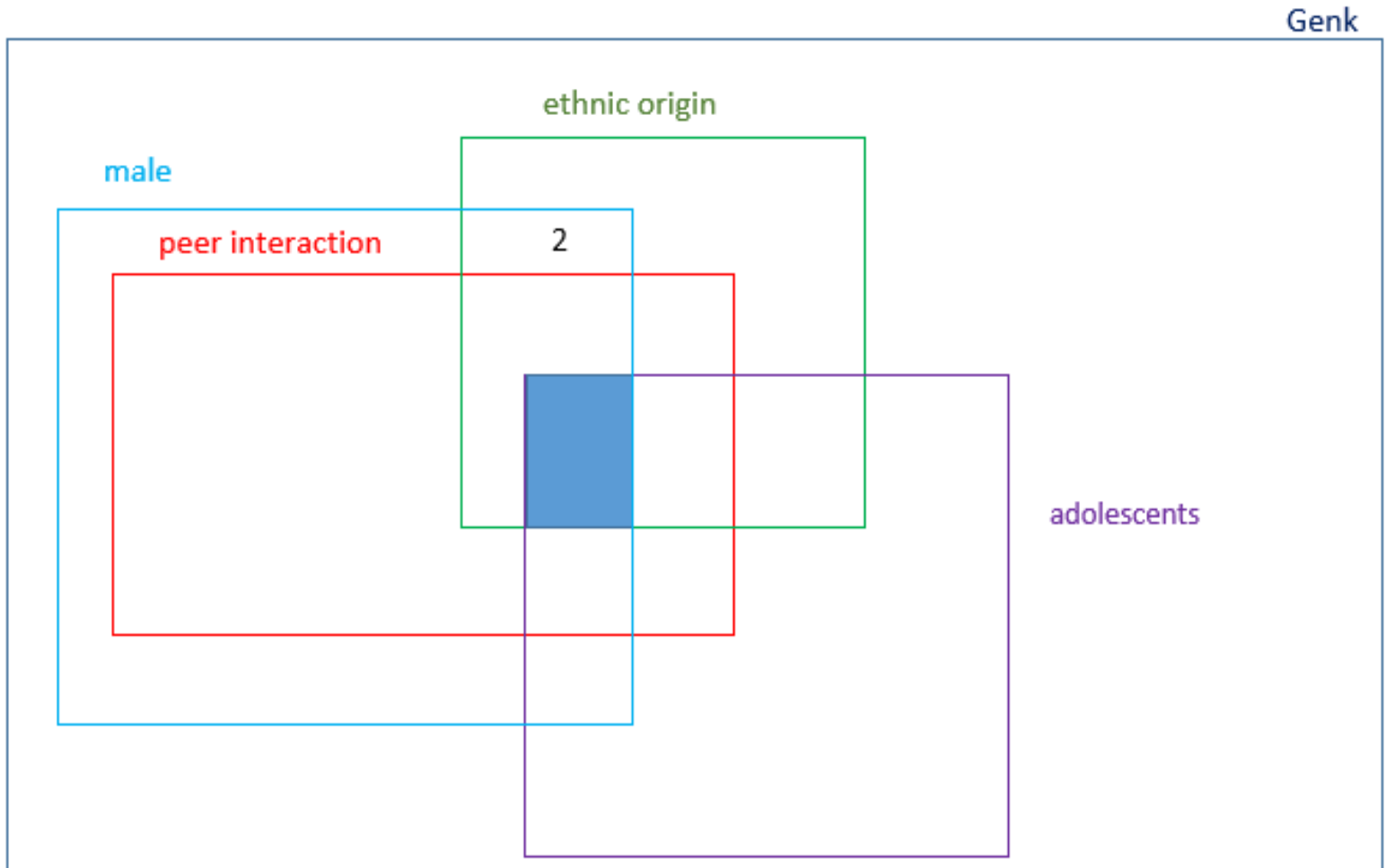
2. Francesco at home

[+ adolescent]

[+ male]

[+ ethnic origin]

Test 2: Case 2

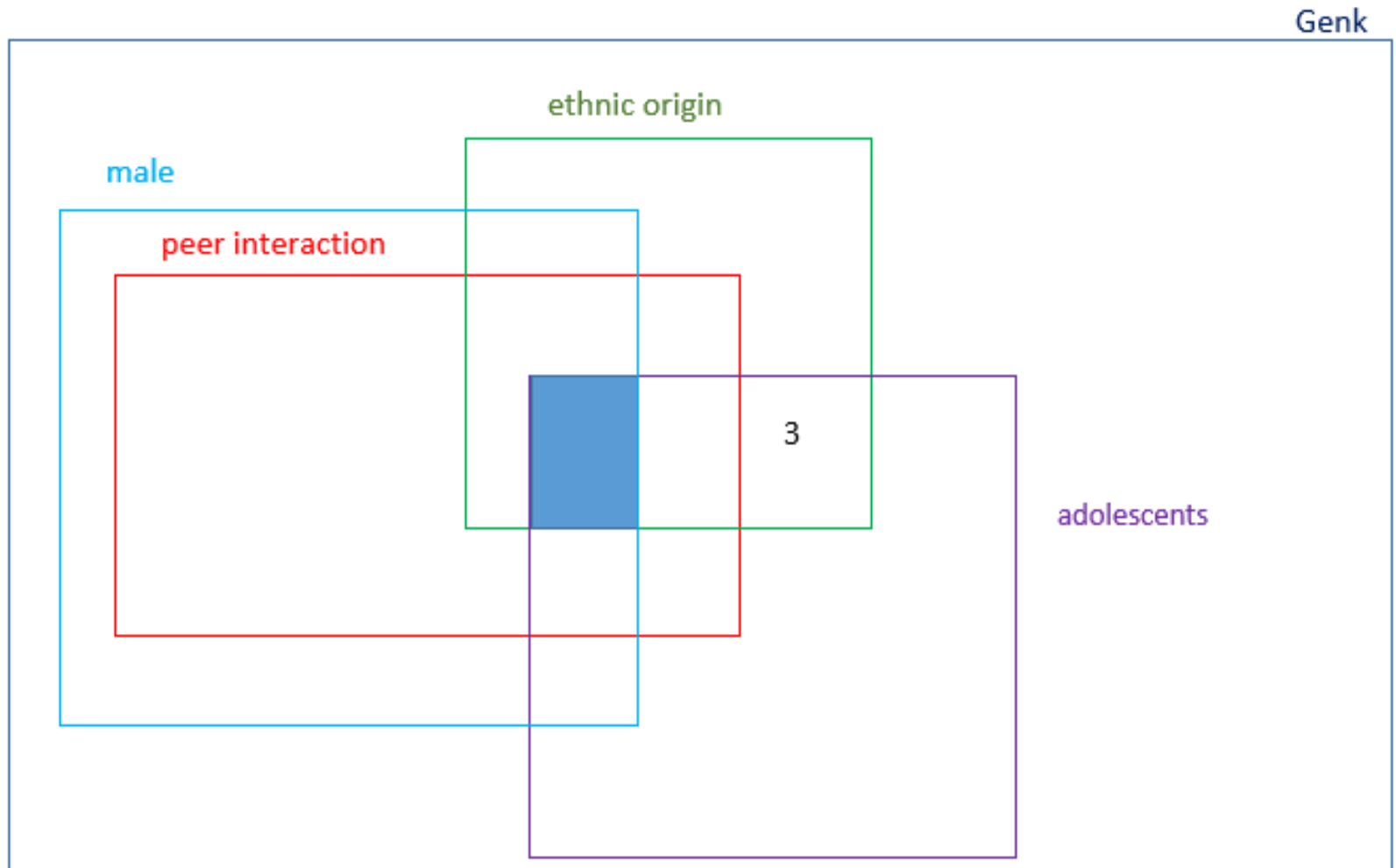


3. Chiara at home

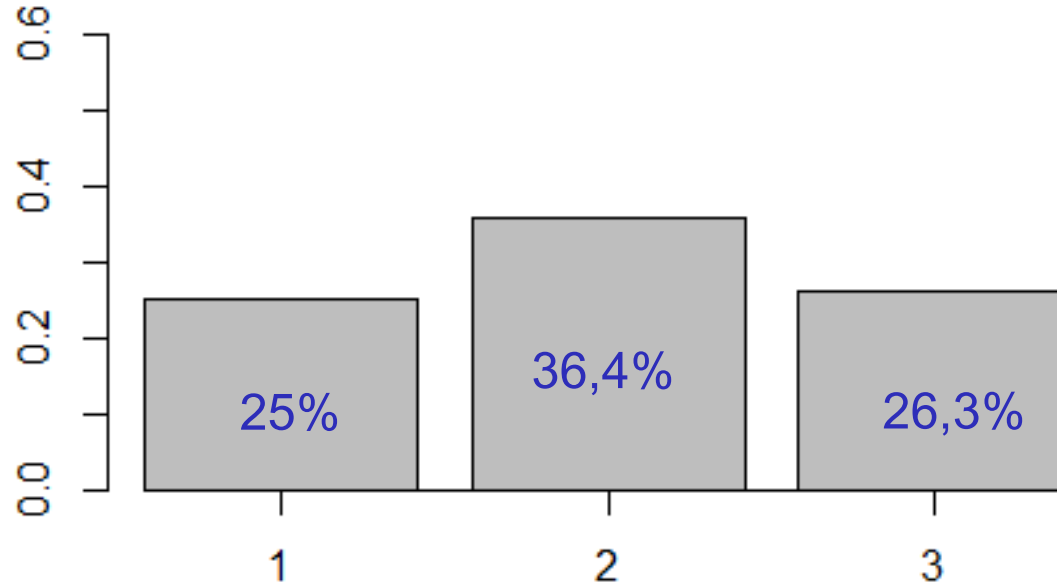
[+ ethnic]

[+ adolescent]

Test 2: Case 3

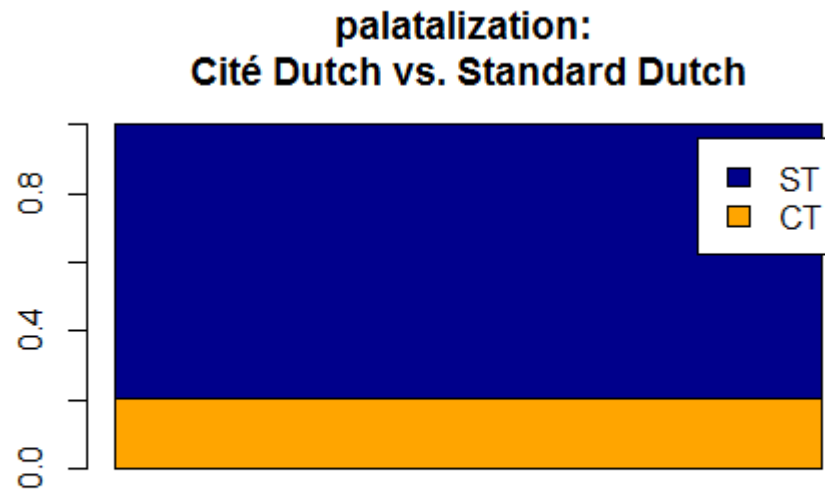


Test 2: Results



Which overarching interactional / pragmatic factors help explain this and should be added to the prototype structure?

Overall: relatively little palatalization

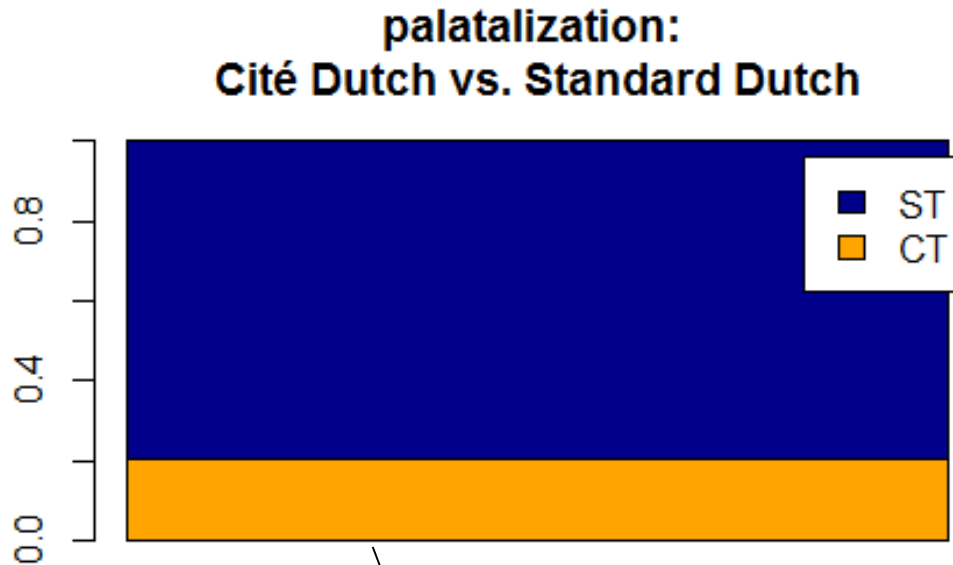


Overall: relatively little palatalization

1 CHI waar **staat** da eigenlijk waar ge tusse kunt kiezen
2 SOP hier van voor aan de toog
3 (2.2)
4 SOP ge kunt ook zo arrabiata pakken of zo hè
5 CHI nee dinges is lekkerder zo gewoon
6 SOP huh
7 CHI o kijk daar **staat** da (.) penne (.) fusilli (.) **spaghetti** en tortellini

1 CHI where is it actually **mentioned** what you can choose from
2 SOP here up front at the bar
3 (2.2)
4 SOP you can also take arrabiata or something hè
5 CHI no that thing is just nicer
6 SOP huh
7 CHI o look there it is **mentioned** (.) penne (.) fusilli (.) **spaghetti** and tortellini

Overall: relatively little palatalization



Contextual triggers for use of palatalization?

Addition 1 to the prototype: Commenting

- Commenting on absent others = gossiping
- Commenting on co-present others = challenging
- Commenting on oneself = self-deprecation

QML

information request = challenge

1 SOP ↑ WHAT (.) are you doing now?

2 CHI putting on my [gloves] informative response + overlapping challenge

3 SOP [do you want to imitate Michael Jackson or what?

4 CAT ↑ AUW ((*mimicking Michael Jackson*))

5 SOP no do it once (.) who's tha::t

6 CHI who's ba::d embedded correction => jocular challenging

Addition 1b: Commenting on oneself

- 1 CHI >ah da's zo kut da' k geen boterhamme meegepakt heb<
2 k ben da zo vergeten
3 CAT ja ik zou u een koe- een euh koek wille meegeven ma-
4 (4.7)
5 CHI °ik ben zo **sjtom** ↓ eh°

observation

- 1 CHI >ah that's so crappy that I didn't take any sandwiches<
2 I've forgotten that like that
3 CAT yes I would like to give you a bis- a erm biscuit but-
4 (4.7)
5 CHI °I'm so **stupid** ↓ eh°

self-deprecation

Addition 2: Sensational storytelling

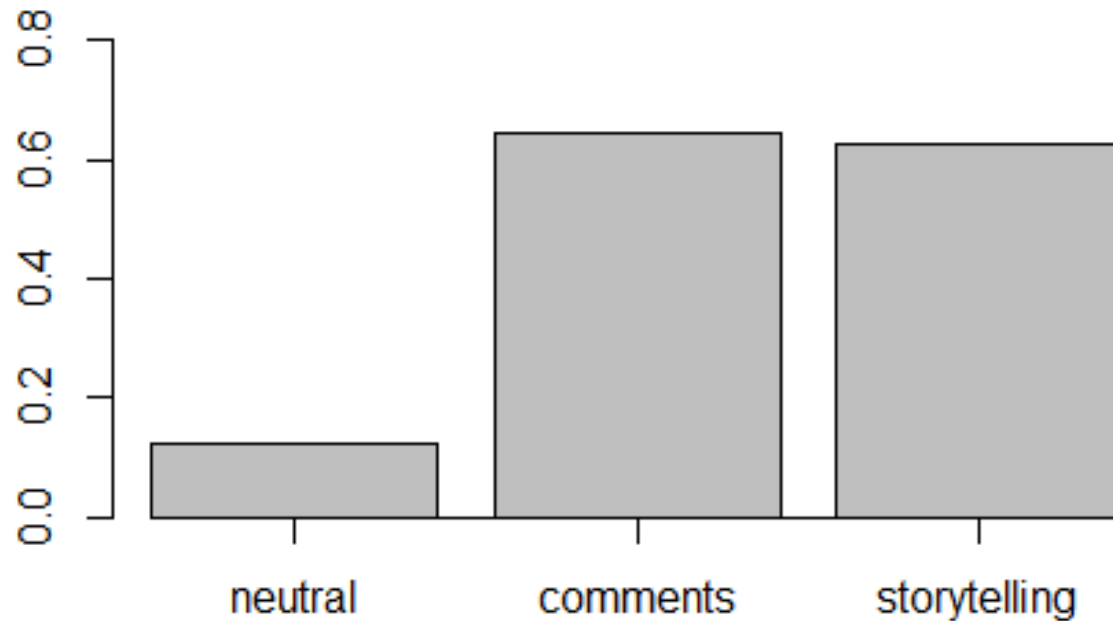
Addition 2: Sensational storytelling

[climax + resolution of a story about a chip shop robbery]

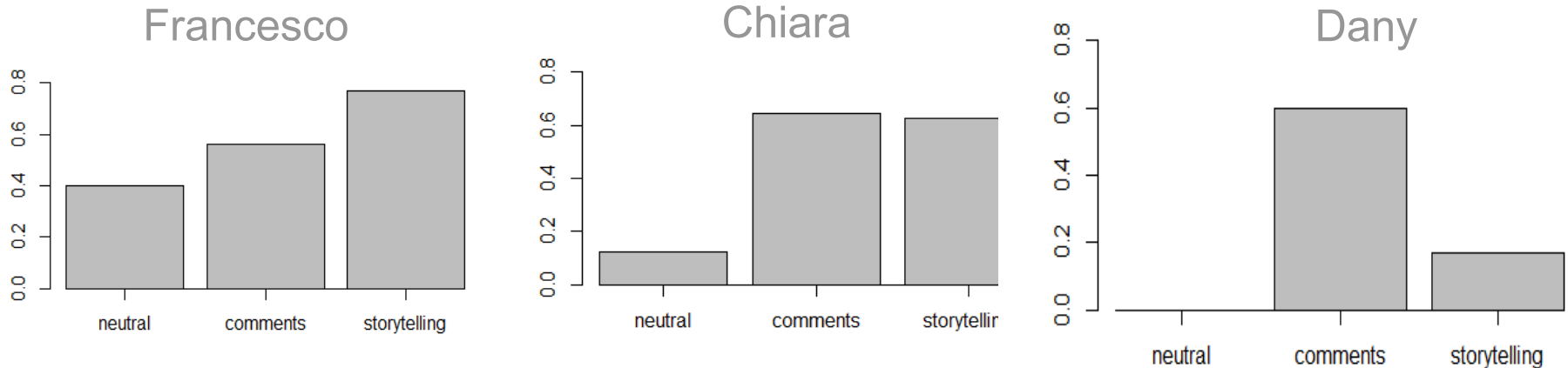
- 1 CHI and he has then just everything m-
2 the whole cash register that he earned that day
3 he just took it all () (.)out
4 he gave him a **blow [sjlag]** to his ↑ head (.)
5 and erm (.) .h yes later on a few weeks later
6 had Valotos had he opened again (.)
7 and we went there
8 and he had really here such an **abrasion [sjchaafwonde]** really
9 but yes Valotos is bald ↑ eh=
10 SOP =yes
11 CHI so you really saw here that that ↑ bump and all eh
12 where that he had **hit [gesjlagen]** him and all hey
- end of the
complicating
action
- resolution in
which wounds are
topicalized

wounds are topicalized and emphasized through the elaborated discussion, through prosodic stress (pitch rises in 'head', line 4, and 'bump', line 11) and through the repeated use of s-palatalizations

% CD in Chiara's peer interactions



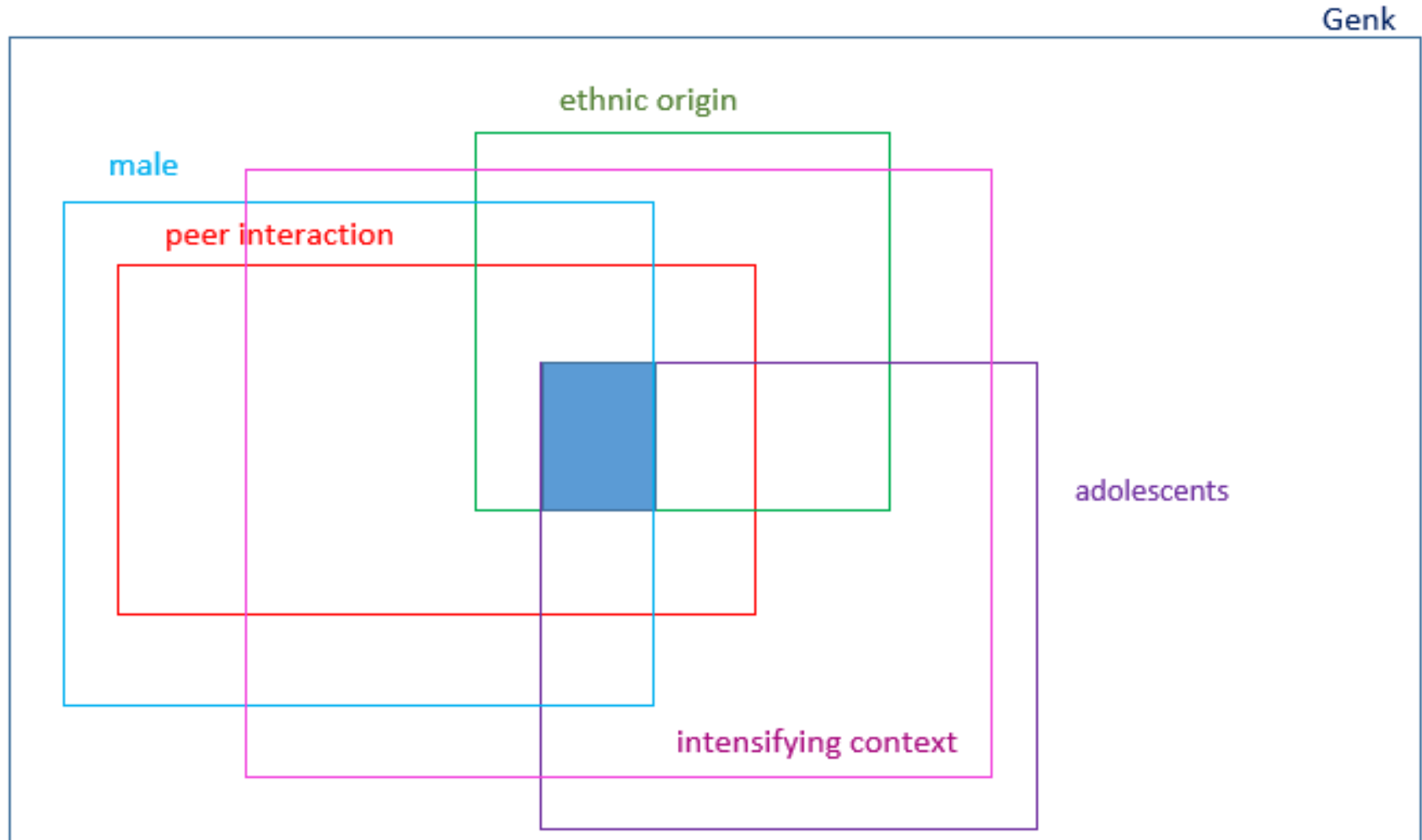
Similar patterns in others' peer interactions



⇒ local intensifying contexts are characterized by more palatalization

⇒ adding the contextual factor to the model

New prototype core for palatalization



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Conclusions

- Social factors important for the design of the prototype
- To explain *in situ* variation we need additional interactional factors:
 - palatalization in quickly shifting intensifying contexts within interactions (sensational storytelling & in comments on oneself and others)
- The prototypical core for palatalization is situated at the intersection of different social factors and this intensifying context

Conclusions: Methodology

Exploration of the possibilities of cognitive contact linguistic framework and the prototype theory

- an all-encompassing account of the interplay between social, interactional and linguistic factors in the use of contemporary urban vernaculars
- family resemblance and social feature comparison
- avoid causal relations

Conclusions: Theoretically

Perspectives for future research and results:

- repeat the cyclical process to arrive at the most optimal prototypical structure
- build a prototype for **individual speakers** and for **other Cité Dutch features** (**generalization**) and compare different prototypes for each speaker (intra-speaker variation)
- calculate the **effect of linguistic constraints** in each cell of the prototype structure

THANKS FOR LISTENING

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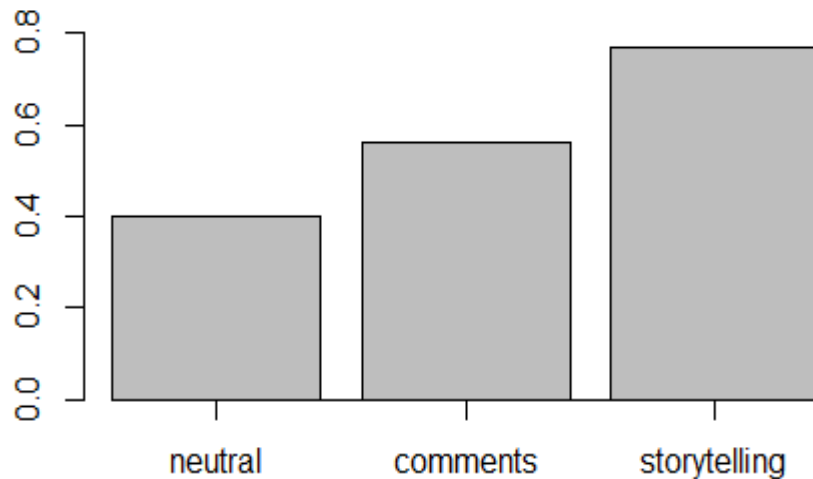
Eline.zenner@kuleuven.be

Effect of linguistic features?

Role of frequent words in Francesco's interactions

+ shibboleths

school / waarschijnlijk



- shibboleths

school / waarschijnlijk

